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ABSTRACT

Choosing to homeschool or to educate a child traditionally is often a difficult and confusing decision for parents and guardians. To help them make the best possible choice, this brochure answers basic questions about homeschooling and suggests other useful sources of information. The questions include the following: (1) Do families have a right to school their children at home? (2) What does the federal government do for families who school at home? (3) How do educators and policymakers view homeschooling? (4) How well do home-schooled children do? (5) What are college-admission policies with regard to home-schooled students? and (6) What resources are available to homeschoolers? The brochure also identifies additional sources of information. (LMI)

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Finding the Right Homeschooling Resources for Your Child

This brochure and *Homeschooling*, a companion piece, highlight educational materials for parents who teach their children at home. Many of the journals, newsletters, books, and electronic sources listed here are available through libraries, public schools, government agencies, nonprofit institutions, and online services.

Resources not included below include a special annual issue of *Growing Without Schooling* ($6; 617–864–3100) listing contact information for state associations, support organizations, and experienced homeschoolers; a list of state support organizations from the Home School Legal Defense Fund (free; 540–330–5600); the Homeschool Associates' bookmobile (East Coast only; 1–800–882–2828); and the Educational Resources Information Center (1–800–LET–ERIC). If you are new to homeschooling, other homeschoolers are an invaluable source of information. If you do not know any in your area, your state department of education will likely have the names and addresses of homeschooling contacts in your state.

Magazines and Newsletters

The following list represents some of the many periodicals now available to homeschooling families. Check your local library or bookstore for additional titles.

The Drinking Gourd: Multicultural Home Education Magazine 206–836–0336
P.O. Box 2557
Redmond, WA 98073
E-mail: TDrinkingGrd@aol.com
U.S.: $15/year for 6 issues

Multicultural magazine specializing in math and science information; includes catalog of software.

The Forum 513–772–9580
National Homeschool Association
P.O. Box 157290
Cincinnati, OH 45214–7290
U.S.: $15/year for 4 issues

Newsletter for homeschoolers catering to anyone with an interest in alternative education.

Growing Without Schooling 617–864–3100
Holt Associates, Inc.
2269 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
U.S.: $25/year for 6 issues
Outside the U.S.: $40/year

Journal representing a variety of religious beliefs; includes contributions by homeschooling parents and students, book and resource reviews, readers' feedback, pen-pal listings, and information directories.

Home Education Magazine 509–486–1351
P.O. Box 1083
Tonasket, WA 98855
E-mail: HomeEdMag@aol.com
U.S.: $12/6 months for 3 issues; $24/12 months for 6 issues

Magazine representing a variety of religious and philosophical beliefs and educational approaches; emphasizes child-led learning and features articles and helpful notes.

Homeschooling Today 904–462–7201
P.O. Box 1425
Melrose, FL 32666–9988
U.S.: $20/year ($16 prepaid) for 6 issues
Canada: $27/year ($24 prepaid) for 6 issues

Magazine with a Christian perspective; favors the unit approach and offers curriculum guides, lesson plans, and reproducible pages.

The Home School Court Report 703–338–5600
Home School Legal Defense Association
P.O. Box 159
Paeonian Springs, VA 22129
U.S.: $15/year for 6 issues

Magazine examining the legal aspects of homeschooling; provides information packets and curriculum guides for teachers and parents.

Home School Researcher 503–375–7019
National Home Research Institute
c/o Western Baptist College
5000 Deer Park Drive SE
Salem, OR 97301–9392
E-mail: bray@wbc.edu
U.S.: $40/year for 4 issues

Peer-reviewed academic journal on homeschoolers' achievements, specializations, and demographics; discusses philosophical, historical, legal, and policy issues.

Moore Report International 206–835–2736
The Moore Foundation
P.O. Box 1
Camas, WA 98607
U.S.: $12/year for 6 issues
Canada: $25/year for 6 issues

Newspaper with a Christian perspective; special interest in informal learning for younger children and national and international homeschooling news.

NATHHAN News 206–857–4257
National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network
5383 Alpine Road SE
Olalla, WA 98359
U.S.: $15/year for 4 issues

Newsletter offering helpful information on homeschooling children with special needs.

New Attitude 1–800–225–5259
P.O. Box 2250
Gresham, OR 97030
U.S.: $15/year for 4 issues ($2 for a sample)
Outside the U.S.: $20/year

Magazine with a Christian perspective, published by homeschooled teens for their peers; discusses topical issues such as college preparation, peer pressure, and dating.

Options in Learning 518–392–6900
The Alliance for Parental Involvement in Education (AllPIE)
P.O. Box 59
East Chatham, NY 12060
E-mail: allpiesr@aol.com
U.S.: $20/year for 4 issues

Newsletter exploring a wide spectrum of public, private, and home education options.

Practical Homeschooling 1–800–346–6322
Home Life
P.O. Box 1250
Fountain, MO 63026
E-mail: marypride@aol.com
U.S.: $15 for 4 issues; $24 for 8 issues
Canada: Add $10

Magazine with a Christian perspective; focuses on high-tech homeschooling, college opportunities, cutting-edge ideas, product reviews, and teaching methods.

Electronic Sources

Parents AskERIC: An Internet-based service helping parents and parent support programs. E-mail your questions on children's growth, development, and education to askeric@ericir.syr.edu.

Listservs: Internet-based discussion groups that enable participants to interact electronically.

★ *CommNet*. Members discuss general homeschooling issues; run by the publishers of *Home Education Magazine*. Send e-mail to Hegener@aol.com and ask to be placed on the CommNet mailing list.

★ *Home-ed-politics@mainstream.com*. Members discuss legal issues and U.S. law regarding homeschooling. Send e-mail to home-ed-politics-request@mainstream.com. Include "home-ed-politics <first name> <last name>" in your message.

★ *Home-ed@world.std.com*. Members ask and answer practical homeschooling questions and share ideas. Send e-mail to home-ed-request@world.std.com. Include "subscribe home-ed" in your message.

★ *Hmedrsch@etsuadmn.etsu.edu*. Members discuss research related to homeschooling. Send e-mail to hmedrsch-request@etsuadmn.etsu.edu.

★ *Taffie*. Members discuss general homeschooling issues. Send e-mail to listproc@jsoft.com. Include "subscribe taffie <name>" in your message.

World Wide Web: A graphics-oriented user interface for presenting text, video, and sound electronically. You need Internet access and special software to browse the Web.

★ *Jon's Homeschooling Page*. Contains bibliographies and information about paper-copy sources and allows access to several relevant resources on the Web. URL: http://www.armory.com/~jon/hs/homeschool.html.

★ *National Parent Information Network (NPIN)*. Specializes in full-text articles on child development, care, and education. URL: http://ericps.ed.uiuc.edu/npin/npinhome.html.

Books and References

The following books are recommended by a broad cross section of experienced homeschoolers. Watch your bookstore and library for new titles.

Colfax, David and Micki. 1988. *Homeschooling for Excellence*. New York: Warner Books.

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Hegener, Mark and Helen, Eds. 1995. *The Homeschool Reader*. Tonasket, WA: Home Education Press.

Hewitt Educational Resources. 1992. *Home Education Guide*. Washougal, WA: Hewitt Research Foundation.

Holt, John. 1981. *Teach Your Own*. New York: Delacorte Press.

Hood, Mary. 1996. *The Home School Resource Guide and Directory of Associations*. Cartersville, GA: Ambleside Educational Press.

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Moore, Ray and Dorothy, and others. 1979. *School Can Wait*. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press.

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Pedersen, Anne, and Peggy O'Mara, Eds. 1990. *Schooling at Home: Parents, Kids and Learning*. Santa Fe, CA: John Muir Publications.

Poteet, Howard G. 1986. *We Succeeded Through Home Study*. Washington, DC: Distance Education and Training Council.

Pride, Mary. 1990. 1991. *The New Big Book of Homeschooling. Vols. 1–4. Getting Started; Preschool and Elementary; Teen and Adult; After Schooling*. Westchester, IL: Crossways Books.

Sheffer, Susannah. 1995. *A Sense of Self: Listening to Homeschooled Adolescents*. Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook Publishers.

Soyke, M. Jean. 1991. *Early Education at Home: A Curriculum Guide for Parents of Preschoolers and Kindergartners*. Baltimore, MD: M. J. Soyke.

Wade, Theodore Jr., and others. 1993. *The Home School Manual*, 5th ed. Auburn, CA: Gazelle.

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